

travel concession is already admissible to all Orthopaedically handicapped persons who suffer from the substantial loss of the functions of the lower extremities and to all blind persons including such disabled defence personnel. There is no proposal to give travel concession to defence personnel suffering from any other disability.

**Railways inability to lay new Lines during Fifth Plan**

2154. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on June 19, 1976, he told the press at Bombay that the Railway would not be able to lay new railway lines during the Fifth Plan because of a lack of financial resources; and

(b) if so, the facts thereabout?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Railway Minister made a general statement during the course of his Press Conference regarding the shortage of resources and the difficulty in taking up the construction of more new railway lines in the 5th Plan except those required for core sector of the economy.

**Conversion of Dhrangadhra-Kuda Salt Siding into Broad Gauge (Western Railway)**

2155. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by him and other Railway authorities, requesting the conversion of the Dhrangadhra-Kuda Salt Siding from metre gauge to broad gauge on Western Railways; if so, decision taken thereon; and

(b) whether any estimate has been made regarding the cost of conversion of this 21 KM siding into broad gauge; if so, how much will it cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH). (a) Yes.

(b) According to a rough appraisal the cost of conversion from MG to BG is about Rs. 72.23 lakhs and the proposal is financially not justified.

**Visit of Officials of IDPL to Foreign Countries**

2156 SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Managing Director, IDPL and some other Government officials visited foreign countries in search of technology for IDPL and HAL;

(b) if so, the results of their visit and foreign exchange incurred on their visit and source which incurred this expenditure; and

(c) for how many bulk drugs IDPL and HAL were able to obtain technology during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI). (a) An Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) Delegation consisting of their Managing Director and two technical experts visited foreign countries during June-July, 1976 for locating technologies for certain drugs. Secretary (Chemicals and Fertilizers) who attended FAO Commission on Fertilizers meetings in Rome, was also present during Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited Delegation's visit to some of the plants.

(b) Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited Delegation was able to conclude agreement for technical

know-how for the manufacture of Nicotinamide, Nicotinic Acid and Methyl Ethyl Pyridine and also held negotiations for technical know-how for certain synthetic drugs and antibiotics.

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited spent foreign exchange to the extent of US £ 3194 on their Delegation. The expenditure on Secretary's deputation was met by the Government.

(c) Technologies obtained by Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited during the last three years are as follows:

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL):

Agreement has been concluded in respect of Nicotinamide, Nicotinic Acid, Methyl Ethyl Pyridine Know-how for Tetracycline, Erythromycin Cephaloridine, Doxycycline, Ethambutol, 2-Amino-Thiazole, Methyl Dopa and Rifampicin has also been negotiated.

Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)

For the manufacture of Penicillin from M/s Toyo Jozo of Japan Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) have also received offers of technology for Erythromycin and Gentamycin.

#### Manufacture of Bulk Drug

2157. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cases of bulk drug manufacture condition of parting with some portion of production for non-associated formulators was imposed;

(b) production in respect of such items of drugs, quantities supplied to others and quantities self consumed during last three years;

(c) whether most of the foreign companies are producing bulk drugs for captive consumption and are resorting to excess production of both bulk drugs and drug formulations; and

(d) if so, particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) During 1973, 1974 and 1975, 44 industrial licences for manufacture of bulk drugs were issued with the condition of parting with some percentage of actual production to non-associated formulators

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Hathi Committee has gone into the question of excess production of drugs by the drug manufacturers. The particulars of excess production of bulk drugs are indicated in Annexure 9, Chapter V of the Hathi Committee's Report, which was laid on the Table of the House on 8th May, 1975. The recommendations of the Committee on the subject are under active consideration of the Government.

#### Production of Bulk Drugs by IDPL and HAL

2158 SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) for how many bulk drugs IDPL and HAL are yet to commence production in spite of the fact that Government have approved their proposals long back;

(b) whether non-implementation of these projects is due to non-availability of technology or some other factors; and